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But geographical botany today does not stop with the distribution of the wild flora. Cultivated plants, native useful plants, weeds, and the flora of waste places come in for their share of consideration and are treated in turn. The plants whose seeds are mixed with those of cultivated plants and are thus sowed and grown involuntarily are placed in the group of cultivated plants. But a more important group is formed by the species introduced and supported incidentally by the cultivation and occupation of the soil by man. A notable instance of this is a group of "saltpetre plants" due to the use of nitrate fertilizers.

It would become tedious to enumerate the many striking features of the work and the ideas which they suggest. The work is in some sort a summary of geographical botany as it now stands. So much material necessarily takes on a new aspect when brought together and digested, though we have been more or less acquainted with a large part of it in its scattered condition. As part of a whole, each fact seems something new. We may safely predict that a great impetus will be given to this kind of botanical work in regions remote from Germany by Dr. Drude's book, since it presents a practical outline which will not fail to be taken advantage of. Our own country furnishes many excellent opportunities which the various biological and botanical surveys now in progress are already beginning to seize. The example of such a geographico-botanical survey of a large country, on a large scale, will be a great inspiration.

Dr. Drude's book is most interesting reading, and as a compendium of the latest results in a growing and important department, as well as in its more immediate purpose, is of the highest value.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE bestiarrians are still actively engaged in endeavoring to prevent humanitarians from prosecuting their good work of relieving human disease and suffering. Their latest move is to endeavor to get national legislation to suppress physiologic research by vivisection in the Dis-

trict of Columbia. There are various reasons why humanitarians should take especial pains to prevent this attempt to restrict human knowledge and prevent the diminution of human suffering. They suppose that National legislation once secured, State legislation will be easily obtained. Perhaps they expect to get a national law forbidding such research in all parts of the United States! Such people must, however, present very clean hands in the cause of prevention of cruelty to animals before they appear as advocates of the suppression of the most important method known of reducing human suffering. Do any of them wear articles made from the furs of animals? Do they carry pocket-books or grip-sacks made of the skins of animals? Do they permit animals to be plucked of feathers for their comfort or ornament? Finally, do they encourage the enormous slaughter of animals by land and sea, for food and other purposes?

There is much important work done in the departments at Washington which will be affected by the bill that is soon likely to come before the Senate, and the educational institutions of the highest grade will be injured by it if it passes.

The bill it is said will be favorably reported to the Senate. It will, however, probably not come up for final action before the next session. Meanwhile biologists and humanitarians generally should urge on their Senators and Representatives the importance of defeating the bill in the interest of progress and humanity. Let them write to their Representatives for the Public Documents on Antivivisection of the District Committee of the Senate. The Medical men are active, but the biologists are not yet sufficiently awake to the importance of the situation. If members of the National legislature are fully informed, they will hardly pass the bill.

RECENT LITERATURE.

The Cambridge Natural History.¹—Sometime ago we referred to the volume of this series containing the Molluscs and Brachiopods; the second volume in order of publication is now before us. As in the former volume there is a great lack of uniformity in the different parts

¹ The Cambridge Natural History, Vol. V. Peripatus by Adam Sedgwick; Myriapods by F. G. Sinclair; Insects, Part I by David Sharp. London, Macmillan and Co., 1895, pp. xi-584.